



Parish of St. Gerard, Castle Vale

part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham—Registered Charity No. 234216

Parish Priest: **Father Mathew Pinakkattu** : 07788790928 Email: stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18th/19th December 2021 Year C Volume 1 Page 90

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

Mass Times

Sunday 19th December

Confessions: 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with Children's Liturgy for Margaret McAtevey RIP and Mary McHugh

Monday 20th

Confessions: 9.30am

Tuesday 21st

Confessions: 9.30am

Mass 10.00am

Wednesday 22nd

Confessions: 9.30am

Thursday 23rd December

Confessions: 9.30am

Friday 24th December

Confessions: 9.30am

Christmas Eve Carols

6.30pm followed by Vigil

Mass 7.00pm

Saturday 25th December

Christmas Day

Mass 10.00am

Sunday 26th December

St Stephens Day /Feast of the Holy Family

Confessions: 9.30am

Mass 10.00 am with

Children's Liturgy for

Teresa & James Tierney



MERRY CHRISTMAS & THANK YOU

I'd like to thank you for all your help and support during this challenging year which we all have suffered, I just pray that the coming year 2022 will be better for us all. May the Lord bless and keep all of us safe from this danger Covid-19. Have a blessed & peaceful Christmas. *Fr Mathew*

Today marks the fourth Sunday of Advent: PEACE

"Rejoice you who enjoy God's favour! The Lord is with you"

God with us, you made your home amongst us, loved by your mother Mary, and bringing her joy. As we prepare to celebrate your birth, be with us now, especially with those who are seeking refuge. Comfort us all and bring us joy.

Amen.

"Lord, I thank you for this new day. I know that you love me, You look at me at this moment and want this day to be a brand new beginning with "a future full of hope".

Whatever I have to face today, one thing I know is that you will be there with me as my best friend, helping, consoling, strengthening, healing and guiding me.

Lord Jesus, I give you my hands to do your work. I give you my feet to go your way. I give you my eyes to see as you do. I give you my tongue to speak your words. I give you my mind that you may think in me. I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.

Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me your Father and all humankind. I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who live and work and pray in me this day. Amen

Who's Who?

Parish Safeguarding and Health and Safety Officer is Hayley Macilwraith: **07840 866201**

Parish Administrator is Sue Perkins: **07971 076835** or **stgerard.bham@rcaob.org.uk**

Young Persons Officer is Eleanor Perkins: **07852404992** or

emp010697@googlemail.com

Parish Finance and Premises Committee is made up of Fr, Sue Perkins, Sue Byrne, Therese and Frank.

Pastoral Committee is led by Shirley.

Social Committee is made up of Beulah, Sarita, Bernie, Rosaline and Sue.

Altar Flowers

Please consider donating towards remembrance of a loved one.

Thank you



Christmas Raffle: Draw will take place after Mass today. If you haven't already purchased tickets then please do so before the draw takes place. Thankyou to Sarita and Bernie for organising the raffle and to all those that have supported this with donating prizes and selling tickets to friends and families. Your support is very much appreciated.

Recently died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Margaret McAtevey

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

The sick: May Eales, Maureen Oliver, Mary Quilty, Mark Ford, Janice Pidgeon, Kath Taylor, Stan Oliver, Frances Irwin, George Irwin, Jean Chambers, Debbie Johnson, Perry Desmond, Philip Fox, Kevin Hollis, Tina Parkes, Father Gabby Maguire & all the sick priests of the diocese. May the Lord grant them the healing they require.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for a particular intention: on behalf of a family member, a friend or a deceased loved one, to remember a birthday or anniversary, envelopes are available at the back of church or email Fr Mathew.

**St Gerard's Catholic Primary
School**

*'We Live, Love and Learn Together with
Jesus'*



Twitter: @StGerardsBham

FINANCE

STOP PRESS: For the first time in a long time, and despite the difficulties that these last 18 months have presented us with, we are delighted to say that we are finally in credit in our bank account and have a secured monthly revenue from rental income from our church centre. This is the most wonderful news and due to the hard work and determination of our parishioners. We can head into 2022 knowing we are secure in covering our bills each month and have a little to make inroads into the much needed repairs to our church. We should be very proud of what we have achieved by standing strong in the face of adversity. Without the worry of finances, and with the improvements we will be able to make to the fabric of our church, we can start to think about the Synod message, exploring what our church should look like in this third millennium?

Offertory 5th December

Gift Aid	£116.00
Regular Giving	£80.00
Non Gift Aid	£17.46
Poor Parishes	£2.00
Votive Lights	£19.90
Parish Restoration	£ 6.00
Total Banked	£161.36

Mass attendance: 60



PASTORAL

Making time for Confession before Christmas

In these few days before Christmas, there are plenty of last-minute preparations to be attended to: buying gifts, decorating the house, planning family gatherings. But, during Advent, which continues until Christmas Eve, the Church calls us to examine our lives, and amend and correct those faults that separate us from God.

One of the best and most effective ways we can draw closer to God is by confessing our sins. It is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation that the Church provides us with the means to make our relationship right again with God. The sacrament is one of healing because through it we find absolution and mercy and forgiveness.

Sometimes we get nervous about going to confession. But don't let nerves or fear hold you back. However long it has been, however bad the sin, however embarrassed you feel, don't let anything stop you from going to confession.

Fr has made himself available every morning of this coming week to hear confessions. Please think about taking this opportunity, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, to come closer to God. In addition, briefly examine your conscience at the end of each day, and make an act of contrition. In this way you will become more sensitive to what is really happening in your own life, and you will be more prepared and more honest as you come to confession.

Leaflets are available at the back of church to help you prepare for your confession.

PREMISES and HEALTH AND SAFETY

We are delighted to say that we have been successful in obtaining funding sufficient to restore the church centre roof. We look forward to the work starting in the New Year. 2022 we will begin planning for the next project!!

SAFEGUARDING

Please continue to be vigilant in the COVID times by maintaining distances within church and wearing face coverings where possible. Hand sanitiser is also available when entering and leaving church. Lets continue the good work we have done to date in containing this virus and keeping each other safe. Thank you.

SOCIAL

There are lots of activities in the afternoons in the Café from Knit and Natter to painting, colouring, jigsaws and generally Nattering over a cup of tea. Check out what is on offer. **Upcycle are looking for volunteers to tend the tables in the Café or work in the shop for maybe a few hours once a week? This is a wonderful opportunity to really demonstrate our faith and make a difference to our community. See Sue if you feel you could offer a few hours?**

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Piety: We have some new Christmas Cards on sale as well as some prayer cards as little gifts. Please take a look at the back of church.

Coffees: Served in the new Café after Mass on Sunday. Maybe cake also some weeks?

Church Gardens

Thank you to those that came to help tidy up the church gardens. I know a set date is not always convenient for everyone so please feel free to attend at any time to do a bit of weeding/cutting back. All help is greatly appreciated.

Church Cleaning

Thank you to those that came to help clean the church. I know a set date is not always convenient for everyone so please feel free to attend at any time to do a bit of cleaning if you have a spare hour. If you phone Fr he will confirm he is around to let you in. All help is greatly appreciated.

Bishops Conference Letter about regarding importance of attending Mass on Sundays.

This letter produced by the Bishops Conference is available at the back of church for you to take away. It details the importance to our faith of regular attendance at Mass and calls for all practising Catholics to attend Mass every Sunday, unless they are unable to because of sickness, or for other reasons such as the care of infants or the sick. Now more than ever, as we continue to journey through this pandemic, we are called to recognise and practice our faith and are encouraged to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays.